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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE REMOVAL AND PREVENTION
EPA CONTRACT 68-01-7367

Mr. Duane Heaton
Deputy Project Officer
Emergency Support Section, 5HS-12
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

August 13, 1990

TAT-05-G2-02002

Re: NL Industries/Taracorp Lead Smelter, Granite City, Illinois,
TDD# 5-8910-12

Dear Mr. Heaton;

On October 16, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) tasked the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) to review the NL Industries/Taracorp Lead Smelter (NLI) site, a National Priorities List (NPL) site, for a possible removal action. This letter report summarizes the review of the available files, and interviews with the U.S. EPA Remedial Program Manager (RPM).

The NLI site is located at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard in Granite City, Madison County, Illinois (Figure 1). The smelter complex covers approximately 15.8 acres and includes a blast furnace, refining area, metal fabrication facility, and a secondary smelter. A 20-foot waste pile containing lead-bearing slag is also situated on the southeast border of the site, covering approximately 3.2 acres. The site lies in an area of relatively flat topography, approximately 10,000 feet northeast of the Mississippi River, and 12,000 feet northwest of Horseshoe Lake.

NL Industries owned and operated a secondary lead smelter on the site from approximately 1928, until August 1979. In 1979, the secondary smelter and the site were purchased by Taracorp, Incorporated, which discontinued operation of the smelter after approximately one year. The blast furnace ceased operations in 1983. Waste blast furnace slag, batteries, and other lead-bearing wastes were deposited in the waste pile. In the site documentation records for the Hazard Ranking System, the volume of this pile is estimated to be 171,422 cubic yards. According to the RPM the waste pile is not covered.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



260598

Roy F. Weston, Inc.
MAJOR PROGRAMS DIVISION

In Association with ICF Technology, Inc., C.C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C., Resource Applications, Inc.,
and R.E. Sarriera Associates

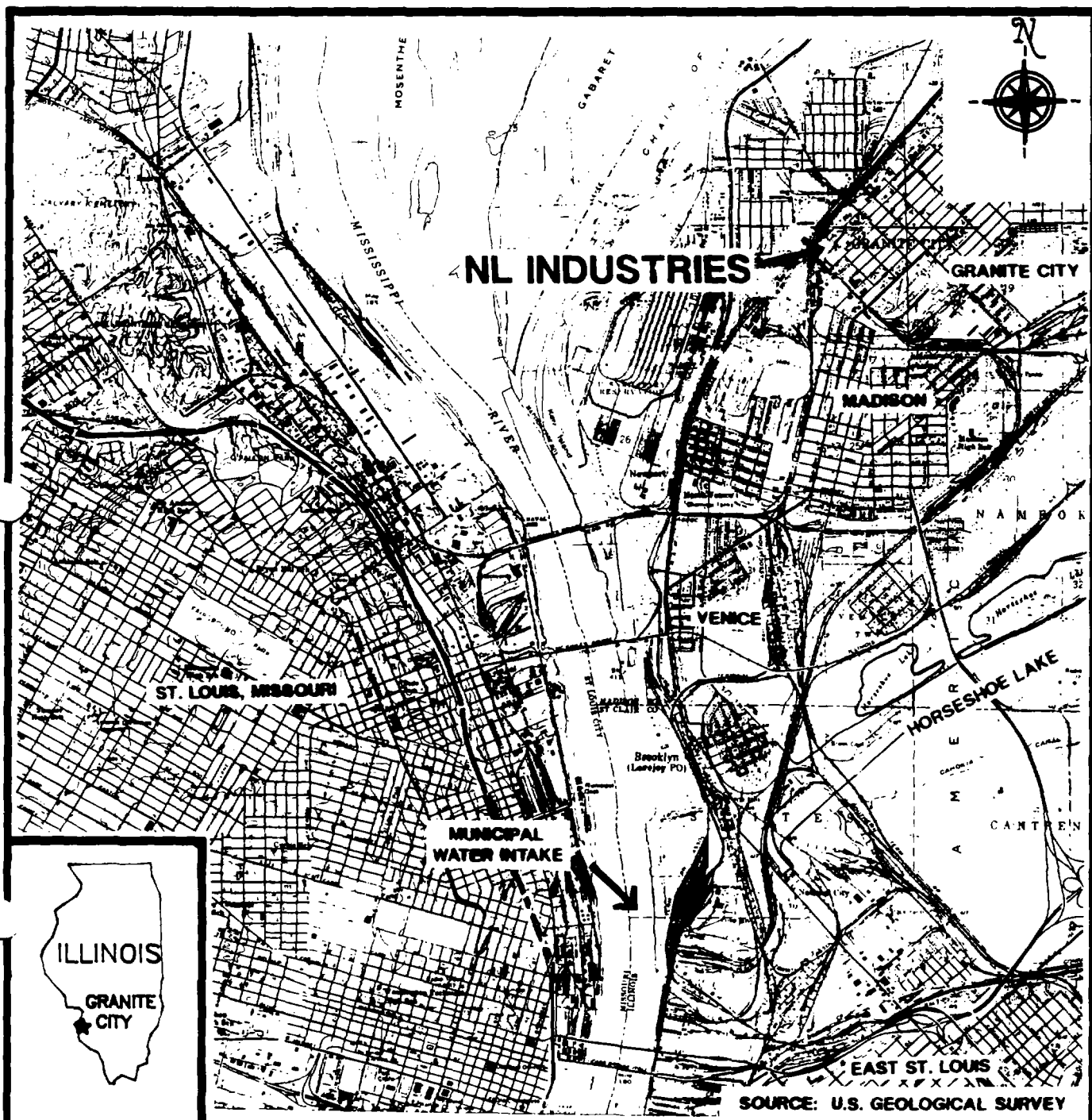


FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP
WITH SURROUNDING FEATURES

N.L. INDUSTRIES —
TARACORP LEAD SMELTER SITE
GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS

SCALE: 1 INCH = 0.9 MILES

WESTON
MANAGERS DESIGNERS/CONSULTANTS

**MAJOR
PROGRAMS
DIVISION**

REGION V TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

DRAWN BY ABP	DATE 12-18-89	PCS # 2436
APPROVED BY A. POTJE	DATE 12-18-89	TDD # 5-8910-12



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In "A Study of Lead Pollution in Granite City, Madison, and Venice, Illinois," published in April 1983, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) reported lead concentration of 60 parts per billion (ppb) in ground water downgradient of the site, and an upgradient lead concentration below the analytical detection limit of 5 ppb. The same study reported surficial soil samples containing 500 parts per million (ppm) lead were collected from an area 5,000 feet from the Mississippi River.

The IEPA installed eight monitoring wells in July 1983. In August and October of the same year, the IEPA sampled these wells, and detected a lead concentration of 17 ppb in one of the downgradient wells.

Ground water in the vicinity of the NLI site is reportedly used for commercial/industrial purposes. The RPM reported that the U.S. EPA Remedial Response Division conducted a door-to-door survey of area residents in order to determine if they used private wells as a drinking water supply. According to this survey, all residences receive municipal drinking water. One residence is also served by a private well, but this water is used for watering lawns only.

The cities of East St. Louis, Granite City, Madison, and Venice draw drinking water from a common intake in the Mississippi River. The intake is located approximately 4.2 river miles downriver of the site at Mississippi River mile 180.8.

Public access to the waste pile is limited. According to the RPM, a fence surrounds the Taracorp complex, but no fence immediately surrounds the waste pile.

In March 1985, NL Industries agreed to conduct a Removal Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine the type and extent of contamination, and identify alternatives for a remedial action. According to the RPM, this RI/FS is nearly complete, and a Record of Decision was to be signed by March 31, 1990. The plan is to excavate off site soils with lead concentrations greater than 500 ppm and deposit them on the lead waste pile. The pile will then be covered with a multilayered clay cap. Site work is expected to begin by March 1991.

Until the waste pile is capped, it will continue to pose a potential threat to human health and the environment. Reported conditions at the NLI that may warrant a removal pursuant to Section 300.415(b)(2) of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) include:



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- o high levels of hazardous substances in soils at or near the surface that may migrate;
- o weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances to migrate or be released.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne B. Potje".

Anne B. Potje
Environmental Scientist

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William R. Doyle".

William R. Doyle
Technical Assistance Team
Leader, Region V

ABP:dn
cc: B. Bowden